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Appl. No. 08/874,460***Remarks***

Claims 10-14 and 21-28, 41-49, 54-71 are pending in the application. Claims 17, 29-40, 50-53 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the canceled claims.

New claims 65-71 have been added in order to more precisely define the invention. Support for these new claims, as well as the amendment to claim 21(m), can be found throughout the specification and original claims and in particular at page 13, lines 3-11 of the specification. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview of October 9, 1998, where she indicated allowable subject matter. Solely in an effort to facilitate an early issuance of the application, Applicants have made claim amendments to overcome the discussed issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

***Conclusion***

Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. An early notice of such allowance is earnestly requested. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and

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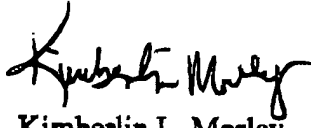
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any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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